



BASCULE BRIDGE

**bas-cule** (bas'kyōōl) *n.* [Fr., a seesaw] a device balanced so that when one end is lowered the other end is raised  
**bascule bridge** a kind of drawbridge counterweighted so that it can be raised and lowered easily

**base** (bās) *n., pl. bas'es* (-əz) [ME. < OFr. *bas* < L. *basis*, BASIS] 1. the thing or part on which something rests; lowest part or bottom; foundation 2. the fundamental or main part, as of a plan, organization, system, theory, etc. 3. the principal or essential ingredient, or the one serving as a vehicle [paint with an oil *base*] 4. anything from which a start is made; basis 5. a goal, starting place, or safety point in certain games; specif., *Baseball* any of the four goals which must be reached safely one after the other to score a run 6. the point of attachment of a part of the body [the *base* of the thumb] 7. a center of operations or source of supply; headquarters, as of a military operation or exploring expedition 8. *a)* the bottommost layer or coat, as of paint *b)* a makeup cream to give a desired color to the skin, esp. in the theater 9. *Archit.* the lower part of a column, pier, wall, etc. 10. *Chem.* a substance which forms a salt when it reacts with an acid; in terms of the theory of the dissociation of electrolytes, a compound, such as sodium hydroxide, which liberates hydroxyl ions in aqueous solutions; in terms of the modern theory of acids and bases, a substance that removes hydrogen ions (protons) from an acid and combines with them in a chemical reaction



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